

Volunteer Weed Watchers

A Critical Line of Defense for our Waterbodies

By
Amy P. Smagula
NH DES



What is Weed Watching?

- Volunteer program for exotic aquatic plants that provides “eyes and ears” on the water on a regular basis
 - Monitoring for re-growth or expansion of existing infestations
 - Early detection of new invasives

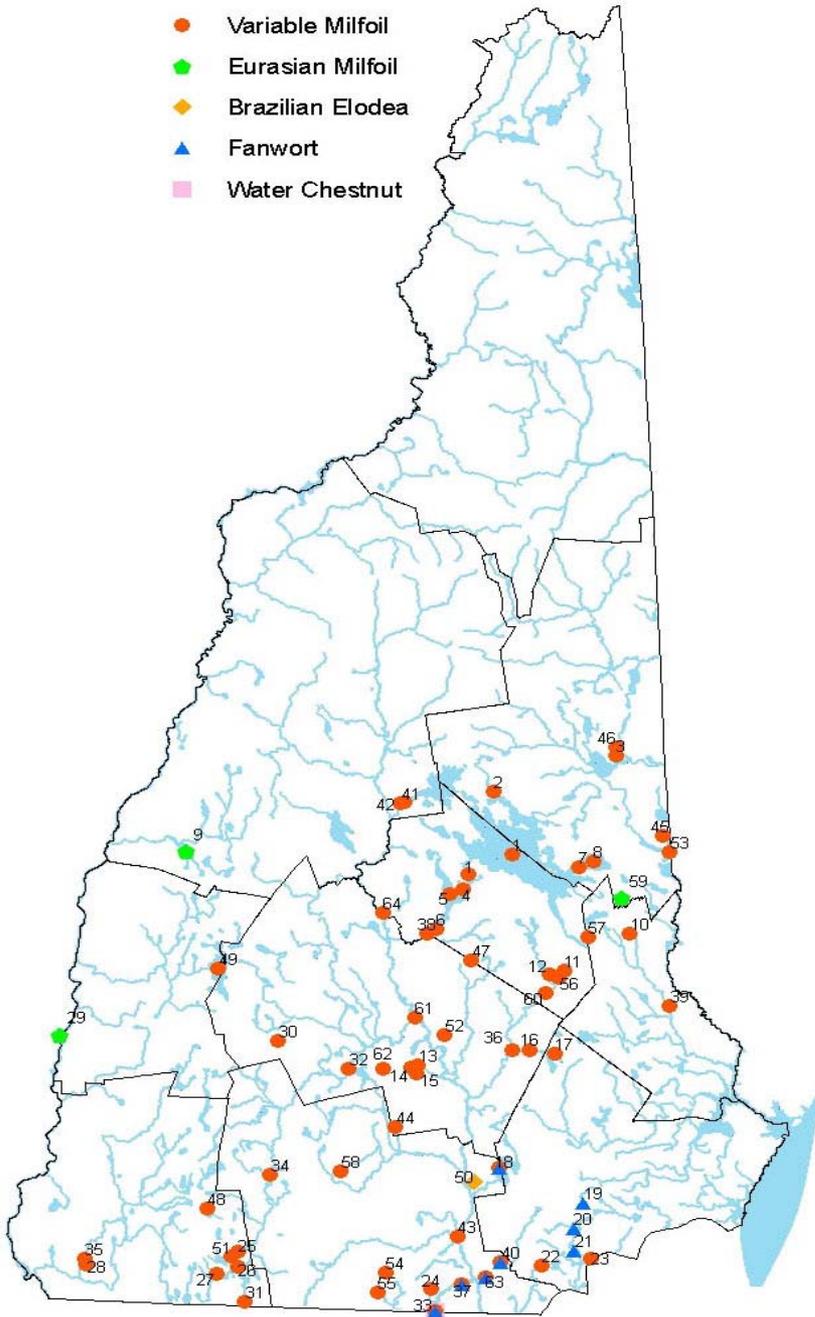


Why Weed Watch?

- Milfoil will be a long-time issue in waterbodies it infests
- While control efforts will be very effective in time, WW are key to keeping it that way
 - Some regrowth will occur
 - If ignored or not noticed then it will increase in acreage once again
- Weed Watching is easy, it's done once a month, so why not?

SPECIES

- Variable Milfoil
- Eurasian Milfoil
- ◆ Brazilian Elodea
- ▲ Fanwort
- Water Chestnut



Exotic Plant Update

- 67 variable milfoil sites
- 6 Eurasian milfoil sites
- 9 fanwort sites
- 1 Brazilian elodea site
- 1 water chestnut site
- 3 European naiad sites
- 3 curly-leaf pondweed sites
- No hydrilla
- No zebra mussels

Weed Watcher Equipment and Methods



What is Involved?

- Monitor once a month from May to September
- NHDES provides resources:
 - Weed Watcher Kit
 - Pictures
 - Fact sheets
 - Maps of the subject lake/pond (bathymetric and historical plant maps with keys)

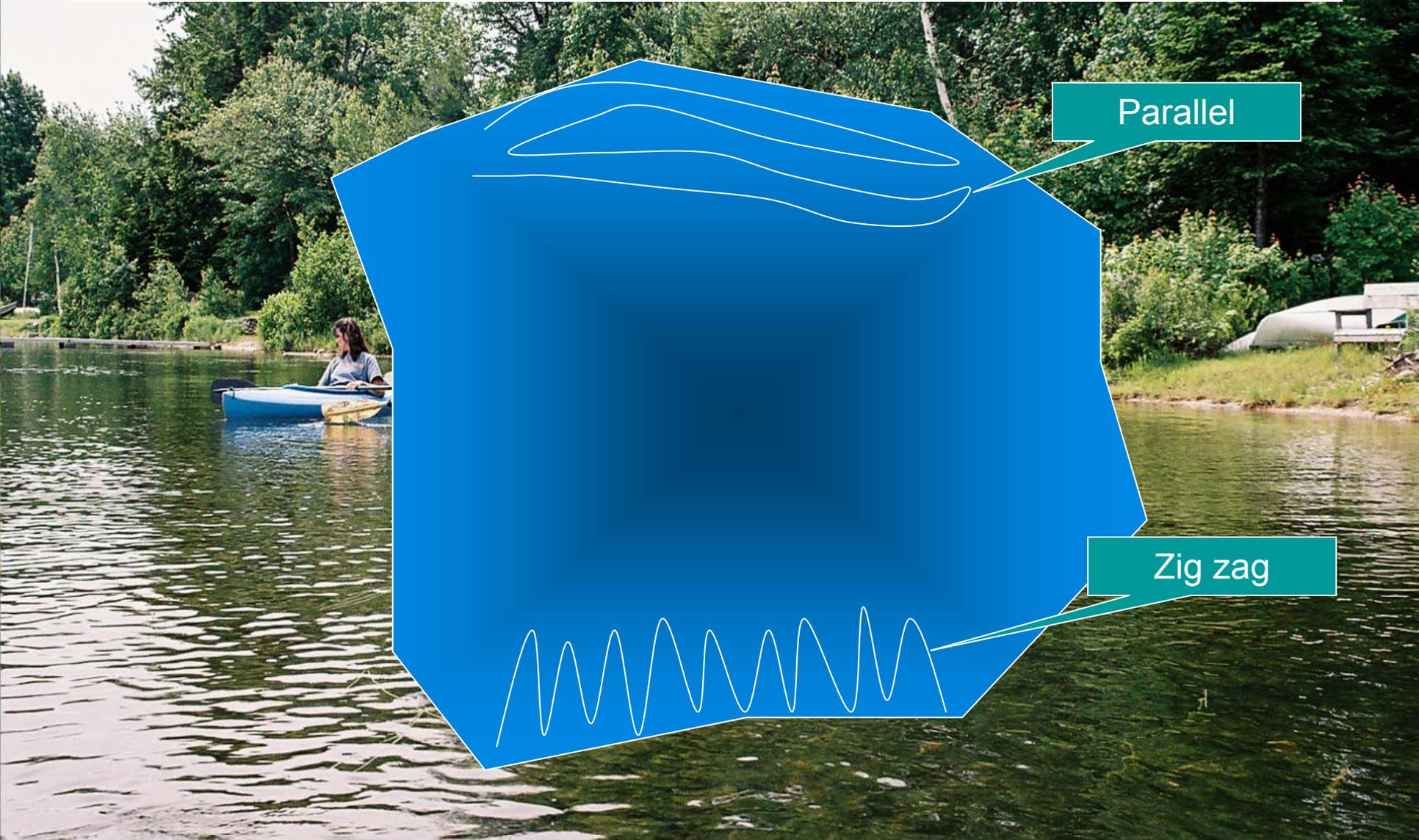


Equipment

- ✓ Small boat with short shaft motor, canoe, kayak, or row boat
- ✓ Driver and one or more observers
- ✓ Lake outline map, pens/pencils
- ✓ Plant identification keys/pictures
- ✓ Small long-handled rake
- ✓ Zip-lock bags
- ✓ GPS (optional)
- ✓ Polarized glasses or view scope (optional)



On the Water



Parallel

Zig zag

If you find something...

- Mark it
 - Construct some type of buoy, triangulate, reference a nearby nav buoy, or use GPS
- Contact Ginny Gassman and/or Amy Smagula
- Don't try to pick it!

The Bad Plants



Variable milfoil (EXOTIC)



Variable milfoil flower



Eurasian milfoil (EXOTIC)



Water chestnut- EXOTIC



Purple loosestrife (EXOTIC)



Common reed (Phragmites) EXOTIC





Hydrilla (EXOTIC)



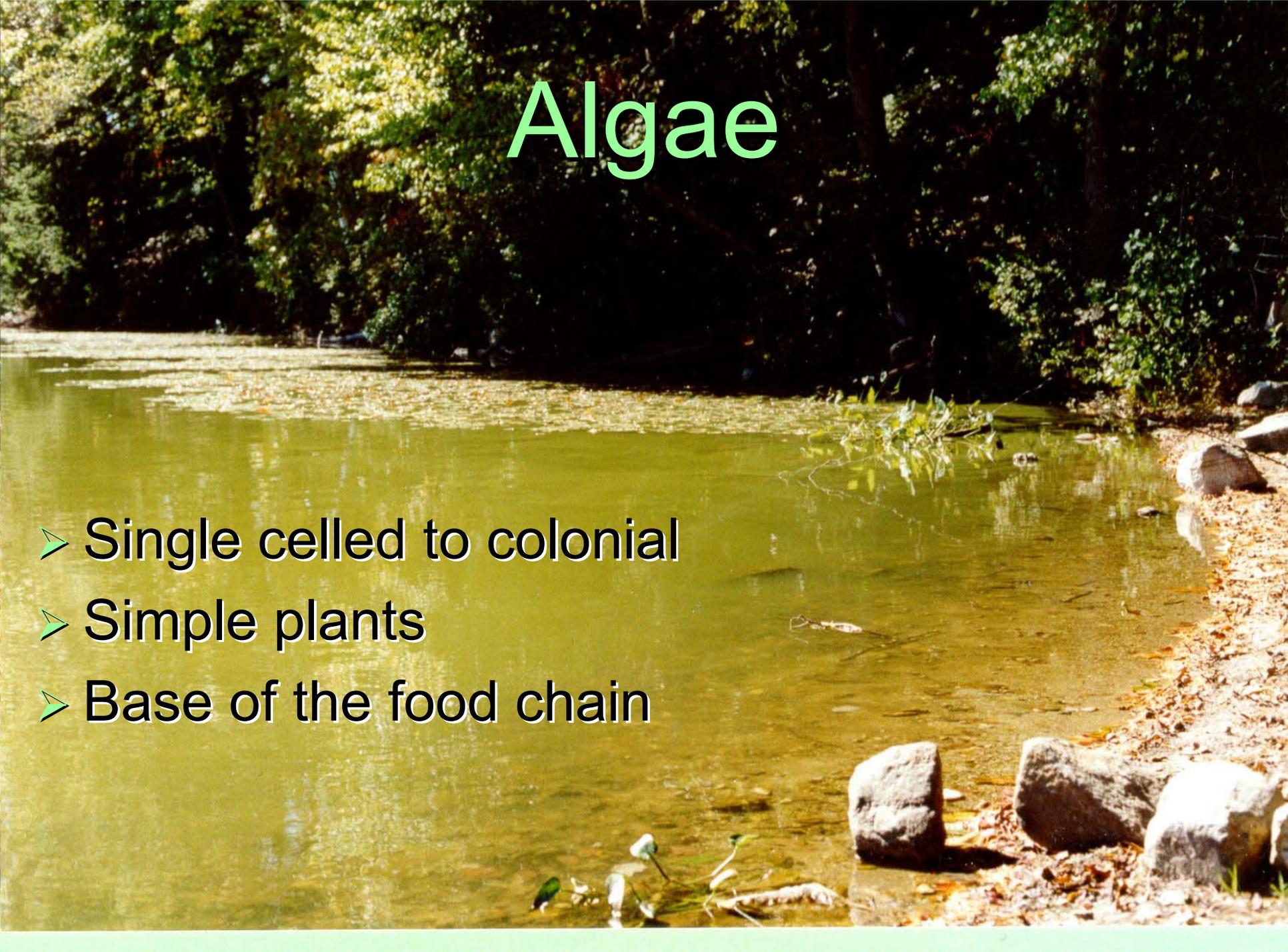
Brazilian elodea (EXOTIC)

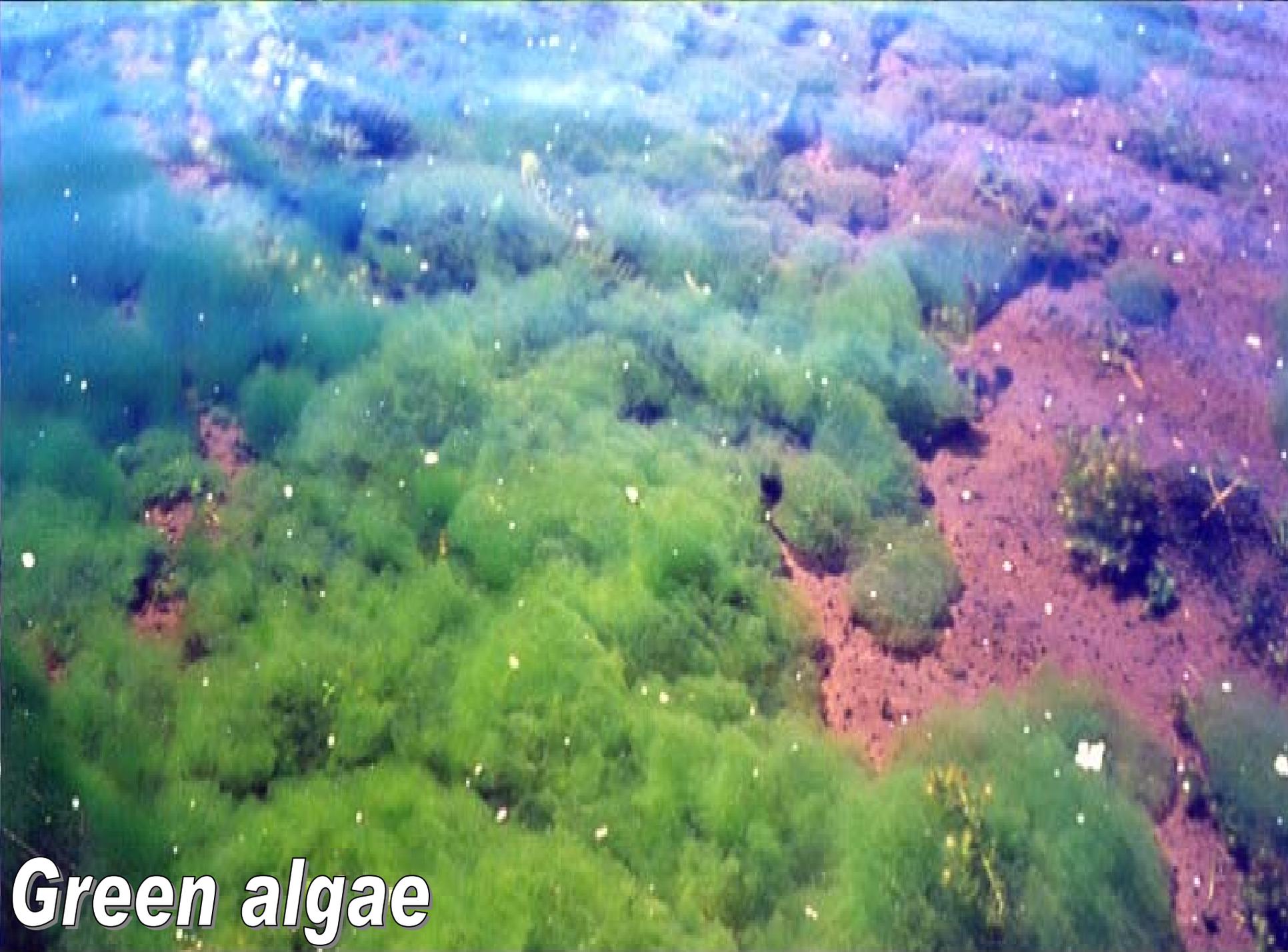


Fanwort (EXOTIC)

Algae

- Single celled to colonial
- Simple plants
- Base of the food chain





Green algae



Cyanobacteria (Blue-green algae)

Questions?

Amy Smagula

NH DES

271-2248

Amy.Smagula@des.nh.gov